

United States Government

MEMORANDUM

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

To: Assistant Regional Director (RW): ATTN: RFS

From: Refuge Manager, Back Bay NWR, VA

Subject: BACK BAY NWR PHRAGMITES CONTROL PROGRAM RESULTS - 1992

Date: October 22, 1992

Phragmites control was initiated during the second week of September this year. The pesticide applied was RODEO. Application was by helicopter flying very low over the targets, because of windy conditions. Targets consisted of 175 acres of Phragmites inside C-Pool, C-Storage Pool, B-Pool, G-Pool (in newly hydroaxed areas), along the bayshore "fingers", near the False Cape State Park boundary, and on a southern Ragged Island marsh "island" (Ref. Map #1).

Follow-up visual checks of the pool areas adjacent to the dikes were conducted during late September. The sprayed Phragmites did not exhibit strong evidence of stress at that time, and concerns were expressed that the contractor had missed many of the targets because of the winds. However, this did not appear likely, since the RODEO had been applied with the helicopter's skids in the tops of the Phragmites, as witnessed by refuge staff.

On October 9, a second closer check of the treated areas revealed a major die-off, as follows:

1. The major infestation in southwestern C-Pool had a kill of about 90%. Two or three small (approx. 25' X 30') pockets of still green, unstressed Phragmites, exist not far from the west dike and C-Storage Pool cross-dike near a few pine trees. Another small patch (approx. 50' X 75') of Phragmites was also noted in the northwestern corner of C-Pool that was green and probably not sprayed (Ref. Map #2).

The concentration adjacent to the northwestern dike inside C-Pool experienced a lesser kill of approximately 80%

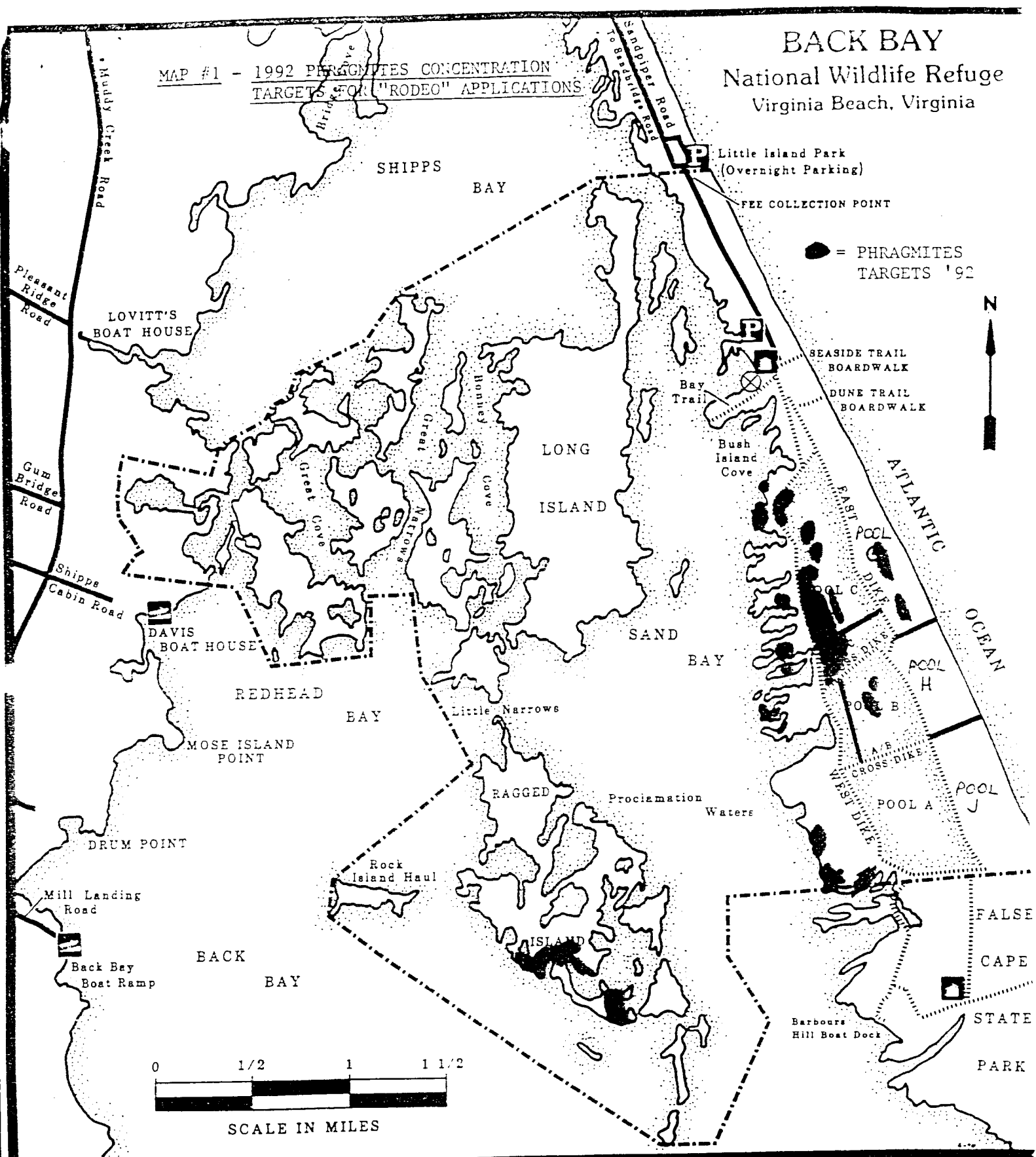
2. The large Phragmites concentration in C-Storage Pool experienced a kill of 95% or more.

BACKBAY

National Wildlife Refuge

Virginia Beach, Virginia

MAP #1 - 1992 PHRAGMITES CONCENTRATION
TARGETS FOR "RODEO" APPLICATIONS



LEGEND

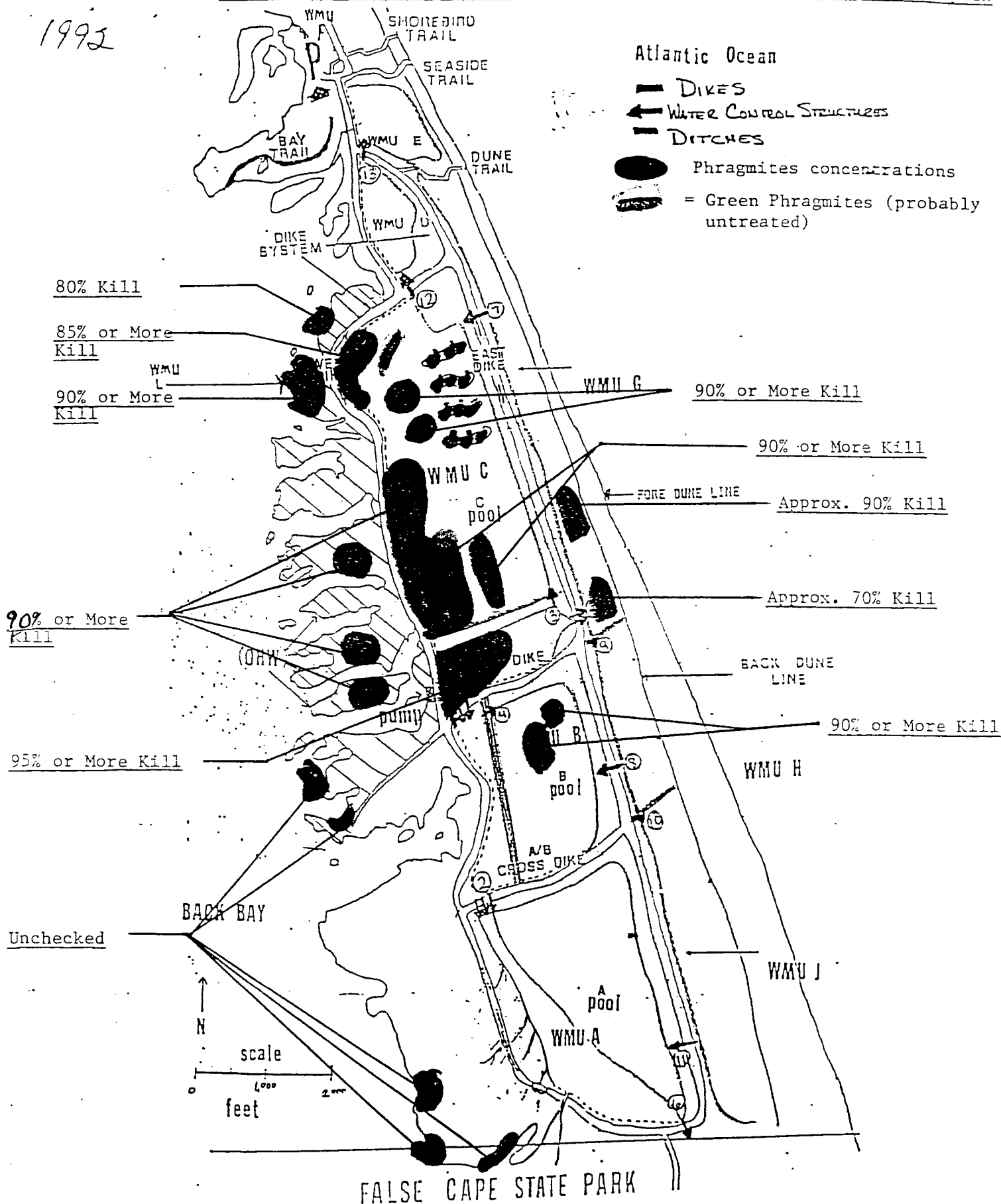
- Refuge Boundary
- Visitor Contact Station (V.C.S.)
- Walking Trails
- Outdoor Classroom Site
- Parking Area
- Boat Ramp

One-way mileage from V.C.S.

End of Bay Trail	.4
To Beach via Seaside Trail	.25
To Beach via Dune Trail	.5
B/C Cross Dike	2.0
A/B Cross Dike	2.5
To False Cape State Park V.C.S.	4.25
To North Carolina Line	5.0



1992



3. The two patches in B-Pool experienced a kill of 90% or more.
4. The seven patches along the "marsh fingers", west of the pools, all experienced a kill of 90% or more.
5. Of the two patches in G-Pool, to the east of C-Pool, the northernmost patch experienced a 90% kill; while the southern patch experienced a kill of only 70% - much of it was still green and unstressed.
6. The southernmost three patches bordering on False Cape State Park were not checked, but are assumed to have been sprayed. These last three areas were also checked off (as sprayed) by the contractor, as were all controlled phragmites stands.
7. During an aerial waterfowl survey on 10/20/92, the southernmost Ragged Island Phragmites stand was checked. It also appeared very yellow and dead, with an estimated kill of 90%-95%. The pilot indicated that he had also sprayed those areas, as requested (Ref. Map #3).

In conclusion, a longer than expected time lag between the spraying and the die-off, occurred this year. We are satisfied with the contractor's performance and the Phragmites kill.

Burning of dead Phragmites stands is expected to occur next spring, once pool levels are brought down following the departure of our wintering waterfowl populations.

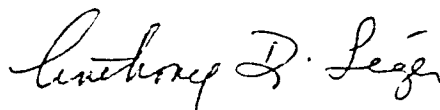
Future control efforts will focus on the following priorities:

Priority 1 - Remaining live Phragmites stands within and adjacent to the impoundments (pools).

Priority 2 - Phragmites stands on Ragged and Long Islands and the western islands.

Priority 3 - Phragmites stands on newly acquired lands. This priority may change upon the discretion of the Project Leader, should newly acquired land have particularly good waterfowl habitat on it that is threatened by Phragmites.

Should there be any questions, feel free to contact me or Biologist John Gallegos.



Anthony D. Leger

Galapagos
Point

MAP #3 - Ragged Island Phragmites
Concentrations Treated
in 1992

Little Narrows

SAND

Heaven
Point

d Haul

90% - 95% Kill

BACK BAY
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Ragged Island

Barro Colorado

South Inlet

Cedar
Island

BKB: LEGER/jgallegos/October 22, 1992

CC: RF, H.Laskowski

FILE DESIGNATION: HAB: PEST - Pesticide

DISK NAME: 1990 Deer Hunt, Phrag. Control Plan.

FILE NAME: PHRAGCTL.92

EMAIL: NO

FAX: NO

OVERNIGHT MAIL: NO